

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 IO-13 EB-08 COME-00

FAA-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 /074 W

-----025728 141803Z /42

P R 141447Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8735

INFO USMISSION USNATO

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MARR, IC

SUBJECT: JOINT USE AIR TERMINAL: DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER
AND FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: A. STATE 215434 DTG 241854Z AUG 78 (NOTAL)

B. STATE 171517 DTG 071604Z JUL 78 (NOTAL)

C. REYKJAVIK 1232 DRG 121649Z SEP 78

D. REYKJAVIK 1236 DTG 131420Z SEP 78

1. MFA PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY BJORNSSON INFORMED ME
LATE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 13 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GRONDAL
IS AGREEABLE TO VISIT OF US TECHNICAL TEAM (REFTEL B) BUT
ASKS THAT IT ARRIVE OCTOBER 30 OR THE FIRST WEEK IN
NOBEMBER IN ORDER TO PERMIT HIM TO READ MORE DEEPLY INTO
BACKGROUND OF JOINT-USE TERMINAL. BJORNSSON NOTED THAT
MINISTER WOULD BE LEAVING ICELAND SEPTEMBER 19 TO ATTEND
UNGA AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT RETURN BEFORE OCTOBER 4. ALSO,
ICELANDIC EXPERTS WHOSE VIEWS MINISTER WOULD WISH TO
OBTAIN WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE DURING THIRD WEEK IN
OCTOBER OWING TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN CINCLANT ALLO-
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CATIONS MEETING NORFOLK OCTOBER 21. BJORNSSON SAID THAT
THESE FIRM TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS OF MINISTER AND OF HIS
PRINCIPAL ADVISORS WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR
ICELANDERS TO HAVE PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR
AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS BEFORE OCTOBER 30. HE EXPRESSED
HOPE WE WOULD UNDERSTAND.

2. I TOLD BJORNSSON THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS COMMENTS TO WASHINGTON AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM RE PROPOSED OCTOBER 30 ARRIVAL DATE. BJORNSSON SAID HE WOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL IF HE COULD BE TOLD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE NAMES AND POSITIONS OF MEMBERS OF AMERICAN TEAM IN ORDER THAT GOI MIGHT BEST SELECT ITS OWN SIDE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS. HE ALSO INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE IN ADVANCE QUESTIONS AMERICAN SIDE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE WITH ICELANDIC COUNTERPARTS (REF A) SO THAT SOME PRELIMINARY WORK COULD BE STARTED BY ICELANDERS INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS. (EMBASSY WILL CONVEY THESE QUERIES TO MFA SOONEST.)

3. BJORNSSON DID NOT INDICATE (AND I DID NOT ASK) HOW EXTENSIVELY FOREIGN MINISTER MAY HAVE CONSULTED WITH HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES RE ARRIVAL OF AMERICAN TEAM. HE DID INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT COOPERATION WITH US ON THIS PROJECT HAS PRIME MINISTER'S FIRM SUPPORT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY WHETHER OCTOBER 30 WOULD BE AGREEABLE FOR US TO START DISCUSSIONS WITH ICELANDERS AND NAMES AND POSITIONS OF TEAM MEMBERS.

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